



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,  
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## ***SCIRPUS SUBTERMINALIS*** **WATER BULRUSH**

Water Bulrush is a rhizomatous perennial with slender, weak stems that are 20-80 cm long and arise from slender rhizomes; they usually float on the water's surface rather than emerging from it. Leaves are submerged or floating, long and flaccid, and arise mainly from near the base of the plant. The inflorescence consists of a solitary spike subtended by a green, leaf-like bract that is 1-6 cm long and appearing to be a continuation of the stem. The light brown spike is composed of numerous, membranous scales, each subtending a flower consisting of 3 stamens and an ovary with 6 slender bristles arising from the base. The ovary matures into a three-sided achene that is 2-4 mm long. Flowering in late June-July, fruiting in August.

The flaccid leaves and aquatic habit distinguish this species from all other *SCIRPUS* in our area.